

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An elongated implantable medical electrical lead , comprising:
- a) a lead body having a proximal section and a distal section;
 - b) at least one electrode for sensing or electrically stimulating the heart coupled to one of the proximal section and the distal section;
 - c) a proximal end portion comprising an electrical connector, the electrical connector being contiguous with the proximal section of the lead body;
 - d) a distal end contiguous with the distal section of the lead body;
 - e) at least one electrical conductor having proximal and distal ends, the distal end of the conductor being operatively connected to the at least one electrode, the proximal end of the conductor being operatively connected to the electrical connector;
- wherein the distal section of the lead body comprises at least first, second, and third segments, the first segment having a radially-directed bending stiffness S_{bs} which exceeds the bending stiffness S_{bf} of the second segment, the third segment having a radially-directed bending stiffness different than the bending stiffness of the second segment, and
- wherein the first, second, and third segments being configured and dimensioned to impart a plurality of radial forces to the distal end of the lead when the first, second, and third segments are subjected to one of a tension force and a compression force resulting in curvature of at least one of the first, second, and third segments.
- 2.-12. (canceled)
13. (currently amended) The medical electrical lead of claim 1, wherein the distal section of the lead body further comprises a fourth segment having a radially-directed bending stiffness different than the bending stiffness of one of the first segment, the

segment, the second segment, and the third segment, wherein the fourth segment mechanically couples to one of said first, second, and third segments.

14. (currently amended) The medical electrical lead of claim 1, wherein the distal section of the lead body has a preconfigured ~~characteristic~~ mechanically-dependent bending stiffness due to a variation in the pitch of a spring-coil disposed between the proximal section and the distal section.

15.-121. (canceled)

122. (currently amended) A medical electrical lead according to claim 1, wherein the distal section of the lead body has a preconfigured ~~characteristic~~ mechanically-dependent bending stiffness resulting from ~~due at least in part to~~ a variation in a lumen-wall thickness dimension between at least the proximal section and the distal section.

123. (previously presented) A medical electrical lead according to claim 122, wherein the variation in the lumen-wall thickness dimension between at least the proximal section and the distal section comprises a plurality of layers of a sheathing material disposed around the periphery of the distal section.

124. (currently amended) A medical electrical lead according to claim 1, wherein the distal section of the lead body has a preconfigured ~~characteristic~~ mechanically-dependent bending stiffness ~~due at least in part to~~ resulting from a variation in a lumen-wall separation dimension as measured in a lateral orientation between ~~at least the~~ proximal section and the distal section.

125. (currently amended) A medical electrical lead according to claim 14, wherein the distal section of the lead body has a preconfigured ~~characteristic~~ mechanically-dependent bending stiffness ~~due at least in part to~~ resulting from a variation in a lumen-wall thickness between ~~at least the~~ proximal section and the distal section.

126. (currently amended) A medical electrical lead according to claim 14, wherein the characteristic-preconfigured mechanically-dependent bending stiffness ~~due at least in part to~~ results from a variation in a lumen-wall thickness dimension between at least a portion of the proximal section and the distal section.